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RUSSIANS RAP NIKITA'S SLAP AT CIA REPORT

Letters to Editors Tell Shortages

[James Sullivan, a member of THE TRIBUNE staff, holds bachelor's, master's, and doctor's degrees in Russian. He receives leading soviet periodicals by air mail and digests them for readers of THE TRIBUNE.]

BY JAMES SULLIVAN

Premier Nikita Khrushchev's angry denunciation of the central intelligence agency report showing Russian economic growth has dropped below that of the United States rate during his regime has been belied by a flood of complaints in official newspapers in the Soviet Union.

During the last three months Pravda, official communist party newspaper in the Soviet Union, and Izvestia, official government newspaper, have printed an increasing number of letters to the editor reporting wide-spread shortages of food despite soviet imports of millions of tons of American and Canadian wheat.

Other Shortages Cited

They have also reported shortages of the most simple and vital consumers goods, such as work clothes for factory laborers and fuel for farm kitchen stoves.

The party central committee sought to resolve the contradiction thru the lead article in the current issue of Partinaya Zhizn' [Party Life], the committee's magazine for local party secretaries, organizers, and propagandists.

"During the last decade," the bible for small-fry Communists claimed, "our national income has increased 2.3 times. It has



The Pravda Masthead

increased 93 per cent for each person living in the U. S. S. R. The real wages of factory and white collar workers and collective farmers have increased 61 per cent.

Cautions Party Bosses

"But party and soviet bosses must see to it that the five per cent of our resources allocated for people's living conditions really is spent for that purpose.

"They must stop looking the other way when the budget for the people's well-being is mis-spent. Every shortage injures the morale of the working masses and interferes with labor performance.

"Of course it is still impossible to satisfy popular demand for some food and industrial products. Everyone knows that sales of some types of food stopped this year in some communities and districts. Our people understand that this is a temporary situation caused by last year's poor harvest.

"It is intolerable, however,

that here and there unnecessary shortages occur because of dishonest and irresponsible officials.

Raps "Simple" Shortages

"Why, in Dengizsk district of Gur'iev province it is hard to find even soap, stockings, children's clothing, or the most simple and plentiful foods in the stores. . . .

"Officials of trade organizations have not been calculating the demands or needs of the population in many areas. Store shelves are loaded with goods in some districts, while in other areas the same goods can't be found at all.

"In many rural towns and villages there aren't any stores, shops, restaurants, or even coffee houses. People have to interrupt work and travel many kilometers just to purchase the most basic items, for example, thread.

"Communists must become shock troopers in seeing that trade organizations supply the elementary needs of the population.

"Every crook, greedy bum, and incompetent worker in trade organizations must be mercilessly purged and punished."